



Travis County Historical Commission

The regular meeting of the Travis County Historical Commission was held on Wednesday, January 11, 2012, at 5:30 p.m. in the Granger Building, County Commissioners' Courtroom, Austin, Texas. Chairman Barry Hutcheson called the meeting to order at 5:00 and declared that a quorum was present.

Members present: Marty Moulthrop, May Schmidt, Vonnys Rice-Gardner, David White, Bill Beare, Nora Jackson, Sarah Harriman, Bob Ward, Nancy Hailton, Patti Hansen, Margie Alford, Rosemary Morrow and Adrienne Isom. Absent: Margarine Beaman and Carolyn Jones.

Minutes: The minutes of November 9, 2011, were approved as previously sent to the members on a motion by Sarah Harriman, seconded by May Schmidt.

Report from the Chair: Barry noted that this Commission presently has only 16 members and proposed that he suggest to County Commissioners that they each appoint 5 members to the Travis CHC, rather than 4 as at present. Those present agreed with this plan. An application is still in the works for Danny Camacho from the Austin History Center. Bob also suggested Dale Flatt, a City fireman and cemetery expert.

Treasurer's Report: Nancy reported no change. She mentioned that the new County Budget Officer would like to meet with us to ascertain our needs.

Research Committee: May reported that all marker applications for 2011-12 are in and paid for. She received an application for an African American Baptist church in Pflugerville after the deadline that might be eligible for consideration as an "undertold story" marker.

Projects Committee:

Travis CHC History: Bill is making progress.

By-Laws Revisions: Barry will finish this spring.

Travis County Website: Patti reminded the members that any marker dedication dates should be passed to her for inclusion on our portion of the website. Also, events that have already taken place ought to be deleted.

Essay Contest: Vonnys reported that the awards day was a success. Students made about 80 posters, as well as about 60 essays and these were displayed. She noted that all entries were reviewed by writing professors at ACC and no plagiarism was allowed. Refreshments for the awards event were provided by culinary arts students at ACC. The essays and photos will be put on a flash-drive and sent to the County website.

African American Schools book: Barry will contact Margarine Beaman as to progress on this. There are photos on a flash-drive and the text was edited by former member Jane Manaster.

Markers Committee: David reported that no dedications are currently scheduled. Members expressed interest in helping with the marker clean-up project mentioned in previous meetings.

Public Relations Committee: Margie has been talking with Chantal MacKenzie, architectural historian at Camp Mabry, about our interest in awarding them some sort of certificate of recognition for the restoration work they are doing on historic buildings on the post. She is hoping to set up a meeting and tour there soon. Members discussed ideas for a format for this award, as well as other local projects that might be considered for this award in the future. Bill suggested that former members and local historians should be considered as well, such as Anita Howard and Hildegard Gebert.

CLG Committee: Bob reported that there is no “cents” in government grant applications anymore! He is in the process of putting teams together to do the ground survey for the Webberville project and some members expressed an interest in helping with this. He also reported that the grant application has been submitted for the Ransom Williams Farmstead.

Bob announced that on March 24, several historical groups are sponsoring a day at Oakwood Cemetery, featuring speakers, tours, information booths and historical demonstrations. The participants include the Heritage Society of Austin, Save Austin Cemeteries, Neill-Cochran House, and the German-Texan Society, among others. It is hoped that events like this will help improve communications among local preservation entities.

Announcements: the annual meeting of the Texas State Historical Association is March 1-3 in Houston.

Comments by Commissioners: Vonnys expressed her thanks for May and Bob for multiple appearances before her ACC classes discussing the Commission’s activities and County history in general. She welcomed any other members to do the same. May thanked the members for their expressions of sympathy for the recent passing of her brother. Patti opined that we should use the \$1200 in our marker budget. Adrienne noted that her group has helped re-do the entire exhibit at the Southgate-Lewis House, creating an outdoor museum. She is working with various groups on turning public parks into outdoor museums, something small cities can afford.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marty Moulthrop, Secretary